

Amendments to Claims

1 (original). A laminate structure comprising a layer of fabric, wherein a first polymer having a first stress index is substantially contained within the fabric layer and at least one layer of a second polymer coated onto at least one surface of the fabric, the second polymer having a second stress index higher than the first stress index.

2 (original). The structure of Claim 1, wherein the first polymer has a stress index of about 5 MPa or less and the second polymer has a stress index of least about 6 MPa.

3 (original). The structure of Claim 1, wherein the first polymer has a stress index of about 6 MPa or less and the second polymer has a stress index of least about 7 MPa.

4 (original). The structure of Claim 3 wherein the first polymer is ethylene methyl acrylate.

5 (original). The structure of Claim 2, wherein the first polymer has a stress index of about 4 MPa or less.

6 (original). The structure of Claim 2, wherein the second polymer has a stress index of least about 9 MPa.

7 (original). The structure of Claim 1, wherein the first polymer is selected from the group consisting of ethylene copolymer having a total comonomer content of at least 35 weight percent; thermoplastic elastomers having a Shore A hardness of 90 or less; fully crosslinked rubber polymers having a Shore A hardness of 90 or less; and polyvinyl chloride having a Shore A hardness of 90 or less.

8 (original). The structure of Claim 7, wherein the ethylene copolymer is selected from the group consisting of ethylene n-butyl acrylate carbon monoxide, ethylene vinyl acetate, ethylene vinyl acetate carbon monoxide, ethylene butyl acrylate, ethylene n-butyl acrylate glycidyl methacrylate, ethylene ethyl acrylate, ethylene acrylic acid, ethylene ethyl acrylate glycidyl methacrylate, and ethylene methyl acrylate glycidyl methacrylate.

9 (original). The structure of Claim 7, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is selected from the group consisting of styrene ethylene butylene styrene and polypropylene/ ethylene propylene diene monomer rubber.

10 (original). The structure of Claim 1, wherein the second polymer is selected from the group consisting of ethylene copolymer; polyethylene; polypropylene; polyvinyl chloride; polypropylene/ethylene propylene diene monomer and styrene ethylene butylene styrene.

11 (original). The structure of Claim 1, having a trapezoidal tear strength of at least about 80% of the trapezoidal tear strength of the fabric.

12 (original). The structure of Claim 1, having a trapezoidal tear strength of at least about 18 kilograms in the machine direction.

13 (original). The structure of Claim 1, wherein the fabric comprises a polyolefin selected from the group consisting of polyethylene and polypropylene.

14 (original). The structure of claim 13, wherein the fabric is a spunbonded polypropylene.

15 (original). The structure of claim 1, wherein the fabric is a nonwoven material.

16 (original). The structure of claim 1, wherein the fabric is a woven material.

17 (canceled). A laminate structure comprising a layer of fabric, wherein a polymer having a stress index of about 6 MPa or less and a first portion of the polymer is substantially contained within the fabric layer and a second portion of the polymer is coated onto at least one surface of the fabric.

18 (withdrawn). A method of forming a laminate comprising the steps of
providing a fabric layer;
applying a first polymer having a first stress index onto at least one surface of the fabric,
applying pressure and temperature to the fabric layer and first polymer, such that the first polymer is substantially impregnated into the fabric layer;
applying a second polymer onto at least one surface of the fabric, the second polymer having a second stress index higher than the first stress index.